Improvement of quality of higher education is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan aiming at improvement of quality through increased allocation for improvement of infrastructure in the existing higher and technical educational institutions and by way of setting up of new quality institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards^ quality institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Schools for Planning and Architecture, establishment of 50 centres for training and research in frontier areas of Science and Technology etc.

Quality of teaching in higher education is a matter of great concern. When the Pay Review Committee recommendations in respect of teachers in colleges and universities were taken up by the Central Government, the salaries and other allowances for teachers, higher than those for the Group "A" Civil Services was agreed to by the Government on the condition that the eligibility conditions would be tightened and qualifications would be of a high order. The age of superannuation of teachers in higher education has also been increased from 62 year to 65 years. These steps would ensure that over time the best talent comes into the academic professions through a process of tightening entry and liberalizing pay and other incentives.

Greater autonomy to IITs

215. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether greater autonomy is proposed to be granted to Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in their apex-decision making process;

(b) if so, the details of extant process *vis-d-vis* those proposed to be granted / revised;

(c) whether it is a fact that selections/appointments of IIT Directors are presently entrusted to the IIT Council;

(d) if so, the details of Council constituents as in March, 2004, March, 2008 and currently; and

(e) the occasions since 2004 when IIT Council meetings were convened for selection of Directors and other incumbents for their actual selections/ appointments and occasions for approving those *post-facto* indicating reasons for resorting to *post-facto* in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are autonomous Institutes of National Importance set up by the Government of India. However, in its recent meeting of the Council of IITs, held on 19th October, 2009, under the chairmanship of Minister of Human Resource Development, it was *inter-alia* decided to constitute a five member Committee, headed by Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT-Bombay, to suggest a road map for future of the IITs, including giving them more autonomy and suggest ways and means for raising more resources and also bring focus back on research.